

# DOLL TALK

FOR . . . .  
COLLECTORS

Volume 9, Number 11

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## Aye But They're Bonnie

And proud is Kimport to finally bring you a pair from the British Isles, all decked in their Highland plaids. It has been such fun finding out material for their "Pedigree page" that some information must spill over right here before we try to sell you the dolls!

"Do you know"—that a "Tartan" is a design or pattern, exactly two feet and two inches wide and that a "Plaid" is the garment—that Lowlanders and Border families do not wear tartans, but that three classes of "Wild Hieland Men" may wear the tartan associated with their families? There are first the "clans," and large clans are often divided into branches which may each be distinguished by some variation in weaving of the parent Clan design. Second, "Families" may have a tartan of their very own, even though associated with some Clan. For the third group, "Septs," we quote from a Botany brochure that Septs are dependent families—perhaps descended from early members of a Clan, that go into war wearing the "Cath-dath," Gae-

lice for "battle colors," of the Clan that has adopted them.

No single description will do for the basic doll because for once, the doll maker had entirely different heads modeled with Andy good 8½ inches in stature, while petite Aggie is a scant 8 inches. Their profiles are different and so is what, in art school, we call "bone structure." The material is actually a heavy, best quality latex—"rubber doll" to the uninitiated! Agnes has soft auburn curls while her highland laddie's dark hair is simply painted on his well-formed head.



Costume materials and workmanship are excellent, velvet jacket and tam with a metal thistle for her felt bonnet and battle jacket for him. While both have white ribbon ruffles, fur sporans with silver ornaments and real metal buckles on the tongues of their shiny shoes.

Lots of collectors like pretty dolls and definitely these Scotch are pretty. Their tartans vary so there is no way of guaranteeing a Royal Stuart, a Jacobite or Clan Alpine. No. 206—8½" Andrew \$5.00 No. 206A—8" Highland Agnes \$5.00

**EMMA C. CLEAR**

Word of the passing of Mrs. Emma Clear had not come to us in time to include in last Doll Talk, although she had died in November.

Well known for her work in furthering ceramics in the modern doll field, Mrs. Clear established the Humpty Dumpty Doll Hospital at Redondo Beach, California. Here reproduction of antiques and some special new dolls were designed with fine detail and faithfulness to the best traditions of the art in china, bisque and parian. Excellent replica arms in many styles and legs with different types of shoes have done honorable duty in completing thousands of fine old doll heads into restored condition, when their authentic, original limbs had been broken. Some collectors have assembled an entire group of the H. D. D. H. dolls; many more collections have one or more as examples of fine, modern workmanship, though definitely not to be confused with real antiques.

Hers was the idea of building a business along the pleasant line of supplying really good new ceramic heads and limbs to collectors.

**CONVERSATION? — GOSSIP!**

"Some of the old ladies which I received in the bargain group, together with Aunt Jerusha Cobb, and Grandma Scott and the granny doll I made, make a conversation group in on the desk. 'Conversation' in more ways than one—as everyone calls it, the Gossips. Granny is sitting in a little rocker, holding a sleeping cat in her lap. The walnut headed mammy, with

Hers was the drive, the effort to keep the standards of their artist help at highest level; hers a keen understanding of collector needs and a talent for helpful solutions.

Failing health had made it imperative for her to retire several years ago, but we hope that the continuing fine work of the staff and the new owners of her "child" were a continuing satisfaction. Yes, the famed hospital was a veritable own offspring of "Mamma" Clear, as she loved to be called, and Papa Clear, too. They were married late in life, but worked together most successfully in the repair and manufacture of quality dolls. Years ago, before the California Chapter, I believe she had the doll hospital and repair department for the big Higbee Department Store in Cleveland.

Word that Emma Clear has forever left the sphere of her chosen work, will bring many a memory to those of us with whom she dealt during the period when doll collecting was beginning to be recognized as one of the most cultural of hobbies.

her broom, looks as though she were hurrying so as not to miss anything. Grandma Scott is so bright-eyed that you just know she is telling what she heard from the party line. Aunt Jerusha Cobb leans forward as though she says, "These young people!" The others are clustered around so that you almost find yourself trying to hear what their conversation is about."

—Mary Lou Unger

## PATIENCE, POISE, GRATITUDE

Marion Kunkler, of Ohio, is responsible for the following story and the thoughts it provoked. We liked it and hope you do, too:

"I have been very fortunate to have a gift of ten dolls from India presented to me. There is a high caste bride and groom of Hindu faith, another bride and groom, a village woman, a Punjabii woman, a Mohammedan man and woman, amayah and baby, and a Hindu woman of different caste. These are especially interesting as we have had visiting here with us, a Hindu tobacco grower and his wife and little girl from Bangalore, South India.

"It has been truly like a visit to the country itself. They are such wonderful and gracious people that in some respects we feel as if we are quite crude. Our manners seem to be buried under a feeling of haste. I prize my dolls all the more as they were a gift from the people of the country itself, and when our friends have returned to their home we will have memories of graciousness, friendliness, beauty (the mother is beautiful), and of gracefulness as the sari is one of the most graceful modes of dress I've ever seen.

"The dolls themselves are of cloth suffed, but the braids that trim the costumes, the draping of the different types, the nose jewels, the bangles, the toe rings and all the color and glitter that make up the true Indian dress is very fascinating.

"It is time for the postman, so here I go hurrying! Guess I need me more lessons from our Indian friends."

## BLOOD WILL TELL

Once upon a Christmas, Lucy Cunningham of Oklahoma City sent us a cutie-like Baby Doll, all dressed in lawn and loving stitches. Of course, we loved the baby—who doesn't love a baby—but L. C.'s imagination—in verse—is something we can share with all of you.

"Each 'Doll Talk' makes me fairly drool as I peruse its pages,  
I yearn to see the newest dolls  
and those of bygone ages.  
And when I see the list of dolls  
you've gathered round about  
I feel there's not a one of them  
that I can do without.

"I wonder, with so many and with  
all you have to do,  
How you can get them settled; and  
then I wonder, too,  
When they all come alive at night,  
and scamper different places  
How do you put them back again,  
by knowing all their faces?

"Or do you have to leave them, just  
as they choose to be,  
The Warrior by the Jumeau Bisque,  
the Priest doll by the Flea;  
Perhaps each knows whom he likes  
best, and you should let them be,  
The little China headed Blond next  
to the Fortune.

"No matter how they move around  
or where they seat themselves,  
There must be dolls from all the  
world upon your doll shop shelves.  
Yet, in that glorious family, I kinda  
think that maybe  
You'd like to have this little one, a  
plain AMER'CAN BABY!"

# LATE ARRIVALS

It is not only at Christmas that new and different dolls come in to Kimport; collectors have a way of getting down to buy their own dolls after the holiday spending and giving. Always, too, are deals pending and when it comes to imports, many months, sometimes several years of patience, pass along, then in comes a box of strange dolls from some far-away land! Other sources are established and quite regular. Here are a few that recently came in.



"Anneli" is another of those all hand-carved, fully-jointed wooden dolls from Switzerland. Her dis-

istrict is Appenzell, a rich little canton of only 93 square miles. But the women here have made it famous for beautiful lace and embroidery. Suggestions of these famous crafts are shown in the full, eyelet sleeves, the edging around vestee and laced bodice, the wing-like pleated cap of the doll. Anneli's wooden head is pretty, with deep comb marks carved into her brown stained hair, which coils into a neat little bun at the back. There are touches of ribbon, braid, silver chain and buttons on her specially styled costume. Ten inches tall, jointed at knees and elbows, as well as hips and shoulders.

Another small group of highest grade collector dolls is from Greece. No use to talk about what used to be, although we fondly reminisce about the precious little dolls from Near East Industries that were among first offerings of Kimport — a good eighteen years ago! This time we have four types, all handsome,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, with well-modeled cloth heads, hand painted; all the men with wee mustaches and all dolls are most beautifully dressed.

The Evzone, kilted Greek soldier, is a classic in his handsomely braided jacket with wing-topped sleeves, his crisply pleated bit of skirt, crimson leather shoes and jauntily worn red cap. No. 853C, \$14.95.

"Kitsos," a shepherd from Parnassus, dreams of that dashing uniform, and wears the kilt, but a plainer cap and jacket. He carries a long, curious crook and a smartly striped bag of loomed cotton.

A lass whom he might love is a pretty peasant, typically busy with distaff and bobbin and wool. There is rich, hand embroidery on her flowing sleeves and almost solidly on the scarlet wool apron. No. 853F, \$14.95.



Elaborately, almost fantastically attired, is the woman, "Yulka," of Macedonia. She wears the strangest of turbans over luxuriant brown yarn hair; linen dress and black apron are stitch trimmed in bands and patterns, yellow, scarlet, green; a long blue coat is rich with sequins, silver braid and velvet. Ten and a half inches tall, the Macedonian is No. 853G, \$14.95.

Not quite so large, not so expertly dressed, are three pairs only, of "Mitsos" and "Phrosos" from the Island of Corfu. He measures almost 10 inches; wears baggy knee pants and gilt trimmed sleeveless jacket, fez and cummerbund. No. 82X. Phrosos has silken braids

under a queer wrapped turban and a veil. Her velvet jacket, billowy skirt and much bedecked net apron are quite fine. No. 852AX, 9 inches tall, they are \$12.00 each, but hope they go in pairs as there are only six.

Since the rather expensive arrivals this time have not boasted of "sublimity," we'll not drop to "ridiculous," but—swoopee—and here are some new imports that will not nick anyone's budget. Such inexpensive items can rarely be offered, but our judgment is that they will be gay, welcome additions to many a sedate collection. All are wooden hand-mades from Italy.



Easter Egg, one we've had before, but this time the wooden egg stands good 1 inch high; is natural color, smooth as silk, with enamel dot decoration. Opened, there is a swaddled, enameled bambino  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch tall. No. 754X, 75c.

Same type tiny baby, but in a red topped mushroom, with white polka dots; all enameled,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, is No. 759X, also 75c.

Precious little Easter gifts, for miniature or doll collection, are the above and also are "Rock-a-bye-Babe" and "Peggy Maria." In an artistically shaped inch high cradle, under a daintily painted wood

counterpane, lies a sleeping baby head (yes, wooden) on a pillow of the same. Sweet little posies are painted on the cradles. We simply could not resist this prettily done miniature which could be sold for a quarter. No. 761, 1½ inches long, 25c.

Peggy Maria is a real doll. She is whittled and doweled out to form peg jointing slits at the hips and shoulders. Round head and well shaped torso, painted eyes, mouth and hair. Peg has even been dressed in a gathered ribbon frock: 1½ inches. No. 762. 60c.

For any complete order under \$1.00, please add 25c for packing and postage. Kimport still prepays carrying on all regular orders over \$1.00.



Again from the Grenfell Mission in Labrador, we have wooden head-

ed little Eskimos, with features so carved that they do look like the people of that Arctic land. Furs, leather and maybe leggings of famous Grenfell cloth comprise the rest of these all hand-made dolls. Height varies from about 6½ to 9 inches. No. 252S. \$7.50.

Only a dozen, but of most interesting kind, are slender young Mexican couples that have modeled cloth faces, inset eyes that are enameled, and between their parted red lips, a line of tiny white (bead) teeth. It is all most ingenious. These life-like dolls are 12-inch size, have stitched fingers and toes, and are crisply dressed from Juan's straw hat of bright gamboge to their leather strapped-on sandals. He is No. 393, she 393A, \$5.95 each, but, to make the pair more irresistible No. 393 PR., at \$10.00 special.

A little shipment of attractive cloth dolls, with painted mask faces, and bright, fresh costumes, just came in from India as a real surprise. The money had been sent for them more than two years ago, but changing firms, management of Home Industries, change in government, too, perhaps slowed the pace of the ever leisurely natives. Ah, one does learn patience in the importing business!

But they are here—three favorite types, all in 8" size, with brown bare feet and cute, five-fingered hands. Village young mother with two poddy-bodied offspring, is a sweet-faced girl with a tinsel bead in her nose, earrings and enveloping costume of cotton cloth. She's No. 670A—\$2.95.

## The small Raja in a big turban

is brave indeed with tinsel, beads, buttons, and braid on his skirted madras coat. There is a fancy sword sheath from his belt. No. 671, \$2.95.



His bride, or the Rani, is typically clad in riotous hues and shiny, with tinsel braids, nose and ear bangles, jeweled pin in her sari, at the forehead, but not a stitch of underwear! She looks like a gay one, this Rani; may be ordered singly of course, although the pair is doubly effective. Lady, No. 671A, \$2.95.

### MAGIC BUNNY

We once had a doll friend who sat  
Right down to read Doll Talk,  
whereat

She promptly wrote in  
For a list—not too thin—  
And—there went her new Easter  
hat!

### STILL SEEKIN' GOLD?

This story should have been in the last issue of Doll Talk, where we were bragging about our Philippinos, and justly so. We had a surprise letter from Merna Barton, maker of our California "49er," written from Manila last September. Her husband, E. H., took a year's assignment there as Vocational Consultant, and Merna writes most interestingly of the travel and other opportunities this opens for them, "everything from formal teas to grass house breakfasts." A fifth floor penthouse overlooking the Bay sounds heavenly—but—typhoons from "Dora" to whatever is coming up for "O, quite the opposite!"

Dolls? She writes: "I have found no fine workmanship in dolls, but heard of some in a nearby province. Travel is restricted due to the 'Huk' situation, so it may be some time before I have the opportunity of seeing them. Most of the dolls in Manila are cloth and of poor material. We have seen beautiful wood carved figures done by the Igorots, but nothing that is really a doll. My own doll making has been put aside for the year as it would be too difficult to transport all the articles I need to produce them here."

We still have stock of her jaunty, red-shirted and bewhiskered "49ers" that came from the state he represents to Kimport, 'way last year. Nine inches tall; m-deled head covered with stockinet, then painted; pack and all he is, No. 171, \$4.50.



Why should southern belles be more fascinating than their northern cousins? What's the extra glamour of hoopskirts and curl clusters peeking out from poke bonnets if they came from below that Mason and Dixon Line? I'll confess to not grasping the reasons for Daughters of the Confederacy being so United in their charm. Well, anyway, on a recent swing through the south, we found some precious antiques, that sort o' bowled us over; some are not too unusual, some really rare, and all with that magnolia allure of locale!

In Natchez we found two small china ones, "Miss Natalie," who is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, does have a wide, old-fashioned head with scalloped black hair line, slender neck and cheeks as fat as Peter Rabbit! Her forearms and brown shoes are high glaze like the head; wide, blue eyes, tiny mouth above a dumpling chin and dimpled neck. We think Miss Natalie is a spinster, but hopeful, in her pink mull formal trimmed with narrow black lace and a velvet sash. No. A868, \$13.75.

The other Natchez find was one of those china heads of the 1880's having ordinary hair style, but, modeled on the chest, a necklace with raised bezels into which were set two flat back jewels. This one is side turned, 3 inches high and 2 across shoulders, with cut jet. Too interesting to be a "head only," we added new limbs, high glaze aristocratic slender arms and legs with

point top boots to complete her into a 12-inch lady. Then, from our treasure boxes, came black silk velvet with tiny rhinestone and bead trimming in lavish profusion. If the jet jeweled head meant that this doll was a widow, such elegance surely has consoled her. No. A869, \$18.00.

From Natchez to "N'Orl'n's" was logical, and for once we did find some worthwhile oldtime dolls in this famed city. It was a collection, 'way out on Lowerline, and then wax "Margaret Charles" from a shop belonging the M. C., and a pair of brown eyed bisque and kid sisters from one other place in the Quarter.

Funny, 15-inch "Margaret C." has personality plus. True, her pink complexion is mottled with some seventy years, and what was left of her red golden hair all had to be brought forward of the original wisp of sapphire blue ribbon tacked back of her ears. Deep shoulders, composition arms and legs in orange boots remain intact. But it is her eyes, wonderful old coffee brown ellipses that literally glow with undimmed charm! Her antique print frock and hooded cape (which covers the shame of her baldness) are as delightful as is Margaret herself. You'd love the ample appearing aura of curls and flash of old blue silk in front of that hood; it's a beige flannel cape, trimmed in pinked scallops of scarlet. She's a quaint one; No. A870, \$22.00.

A. M., 17-inch size, has a luxuriant brown bobbed wig, interesting clothes, with a white apron over a pleated taupe frock of some old-fashioned mercerized stuff; all old, except her white tie shoes. Oper-

mouth, extra large brown eyes; Bisque and Kid, No. A876, \$14.50.

Little Sister is only 13 inches tall, otherwise about the same type of smooth shoulder bisque head. Kate Greenaway type old guimpe style dress of dark red challis, trimmed in black velvet ribbon is becoming, as is also a silk faced poke bonnet. No. A877, \$18.50. These brown eyed, kid bodied girls are good fifty years old.

Now, for the Lowerline dolls. These had been gathered by an elderly lady, who, well, sort of over-did it betimes when she lovingly costumed a doll. The glazed chinias we selected are good, although "Bertha" for instance, is being offered dressed in nothing but her cream muslin drawers.

Name head, with Peter Pan collar and bow also modeled into the white shoulders is 4½ inches high. Four-inch, slender arms and flat soled legs with bow garters are high glaze, really old ones and perfect enough to do justice to some really fine head. Eighteen-inch tall "Bertha," minus her impossible clothes, No. A871, \$24.00.

Her next doll, a large, manly one, is almost 25 inches tall, with good old sawdust stuffed body and perfect 6-inch china head. Usually made up as a boy or man, this black haired one has complete ears showing, expertly painted features with pale red line above the well modeled, bright blue eyes, and shallow enough shoulders so the face is large for a 6-inch head. Short, man-type china hands and new legs from the knee down, using a pair of gentleman's pearl luster, high booted ones that had been around Kimport (from

H. D. D. H.) for several years. As to the ever important hair styling, there is a suggestion of center part, one deep curl down over his right eye and an extra roll curl on the top, left side. Properly dressed to match the period costume of some right sized lady doll, you'd really have a pair. Undressed, No. A872, \$45.00.

"Miss Mellie" looks to us like another spinster. Each great blue eye is twice as big as her prim little mouth, blush red plump cheeks, and again, those nice pink lines above the eyes. Wide old china head is perfect, with jet black scallops down from the center part above her high, rounded forehead, new arms and perfect old legs with green tasseled pink boots, but the right one is definitely a size larger. Peeking from under her rose crepe flounced skirt this is barely noticeable. We left Miss Mellie dressed as her recent owner had decreed, in her two-piece silk with lots of ribbon edged ruffles. Sixteen and a half inches tall, circa 1875, No. A873 is \$26.00.

One other china offering from that group—"The Sisters," who have almost identical, deep shoulered, high browed heads. "Ruth" and "Naomi" look like they had never been separated. When their fine old heads demanded clean new bodies and unbroken limbs, these items were supplied in duplicate as were their embroidery trimmed drawers and old lace-edged underskirts. Their hair styling is strictly Civil War with finest white line center part, wide curls at the temples and soft vertical ones around the head.

"Ruth," 15 inches tall, has a

more devout expression than 16-inch "Naomi," whose blue eyes meet one directly. There is only a shade of difference in their perfectly preserved old heads; china limbs are identical sizes and their quaint, really antique dresses are perfect together. Ruth's is a rich deep blue delaine, flecked with gold and black. Naomi's is golden brown worsted, striped, with an old velvet blouse panel in wine-red. Although these identicals are precious together, we'll say—

15" Ruth—No. A783R—\$28.00  
16" Naomi—No. A783N—\$28.00—  
or just No. A783 for the pair, \$50.00.

At the Antique Show over in West Palm Beach, there were very few dolls. We did purchase the entire stock (five) from one exhibitor who frankly was no enthusiast on the doll subject. They are not really rare or expensive.

An 8-inch blonde, with wide styled, high glaze china head, has extra rosy coloring, but a pin point size flaw on her cute pug nose. Dates around 1890; pretty, all hand-made clothes are old, too, under-wear and blouse trimmed with tiny lace ruffles and handrun tucks; rose velveteen guimpe style frock. No. A873, \$7.50.

Two bisque headed children with jointed bodies could not claim Confederate ancestry as both are in original old foreign costumes. Little "Mitza" is a Heubach with stationary blue glass eyes, Dutch bobbed straight wig and wooden shoes; felt and print costume, very faded. This one might re-dress to advantage as the pink bisque with closed mouth and good ears is really a cunning child type. Eight and a half inches; circa 1910; No.

A874. \$7.95.

Older and better quality still is the other foreign, Norwegian "Nolla," in her picturesque garb of plain and print fine woolens with gilt braid and button trim. Her eyes are that brightest sky-blue with hair-line lashes all around. Applied bisque ears are pierced from front to back; pretty, unusual mouth with tiny modeled teeth under the rounded upper lip. Jointed wooden limbs and slender body. S & H, circa 1895, No. A853 is \$20.00.

"Merry May" is of German origin, "E & S" swivel bisque head and composition body are just ordinary, old-fashioned play type, but her frock, pinafore and becoming straw edged bonnet are unusually becoming. She has open mouth, small brown glass eyes, new bright blonde wig, and carries a chip straw basket of quaint old millinery posies. Nine inches tall, No. A835. \$7.50.

Whose Birthday Child will this one be? Someone who dates back to 1894, as that is the year stamped on the back of a bright faced tot, still dressed in old hand-sewn gingham. She has a smooth pink bisque complexion with big amber brown eyes that reflect lights, pretty parted lips, soft brown wig and jointed wood and composition body. Lace on panties and petticoat is the same as trim the old blue plaid frock. Poke bonnet of pale blue braid is becoming. She even has light blue cotton stockings, but newish brown shoes. Twelve and a half inches tall, No. A875, \$15.50.

There were others. The Miami

Antique Show was beautifully staged and did include quite a few dolls. The Miami Doll Club's own show at Burdine's the week before was magnificent, group after group of wonderful dolls, but these of course were not for sale. It opened on a Monday, just three hours before our sailing date for Nassau, so the hour spent there was just one glorious, hurried thrill of meeting people and dolls, but it's a grand memory.

We were able to secure some things to fill in "want list" vacancies of long standing. There isn't room this time to tell about the old "penny wooden" miniatures and some perfectly exquisite Georgian and early Victorian furniture, but you might ask, if these small size things intrigue you especially. And for a final, there is one "in quantity" that is a full dozen of nicely modeled old bisque heads  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  across; all with rounded, brown glass eyes set stationary, parted lips, modeled brows, and all with "Darling" imprinted in the back of their shoulders. Date in the late 1880's; no wigs. Have you a kid body around 11 inches long that needs a Darling head? They're listed as "A Darling," and are \$4.50 each, postpaid.

P. S.—Not old, but oh, "so southern," are some tiny silk flags of the Confederacy which we also found in New Orleans. Stars and bars—from guess where—"Occupied Japan," and now that is past history! Their fragile sticks would not stand mailing in a letter, but included with any other order, these would be 5c each.

## CIRCA '71

Definite dates come all too seldom, but one treasure in the famous collection of Mrs. Henry P. Kendall has a "birth date." Her "Marie Cheney Goddard" arrived from Paris, trailing garments of glory—well, at least a dear little trunk crammed full of fashions of the hour. The occasion, some post-war charity, no doubt; the place, Horticultural Hall in Boston; date of the raffle, 1871. Of course some of the closed mouth, bisque fashion dolls with their bewitching blown eyes, could be several years earlier, but anyway, that's a date.

## TONSORIAL

Here's word of a natural phenomenon that sounds sort o' flying-saucerish — "Grandmother's doll's hair turned gray." This report has been repeated to Kimport from several different sources—sworn testimony.

Well, this couldn't have happened from a sudden and frightful danger, like seeing an infant creeping towards one with a potato masher in hand; doll tendency to grayness could hardly be hereditary, so how about this for an explanation: The fiber, jute, hemp or even hair used for Miss Waxey's first wig was basicly drab and colorless. The radiant dye used to make this attractive was not guaranteed for more than half century or so—so—it faded, lack-lustered and grayed. Oh, yes, we've had dolls with grayed hair pass our way, many with bare spots, too, but there is no allure of mystery connected with a bald pate be it doll or daddy.

## LONG LIVE PUNCH!

Among the many wonderful people who care and share with dolls, I am not sure but what the name of Roberta Mack belongs up with Abou Ben Adem. Mrs. Mack—trade name, "Ronelda"—modestly admitted a library of 153 volumes touching the subject of Puppetry. She is genuinely concerned with the problems of interesting spastic children, disabled veterans, anyone who needs that link of incentive to lead from inactivity to cheer and purpose.

To be specific, Ronelda has found at Kimport more than a score of hand made dolls to use as ideas, things using odd materials, calling for imagination in construction, offering a challenge but at the same time proving that such problems are patiently mastered.

Since one always delegates jobs to the busiest person they know, I shall have to admit asking this capable friend to group together some information on the two most popular puppets of all Christendom—Punch and Judy. Their show is classic because it is as uncluttered and dramatic as Shakespeare. Direct, frankly fantastic and artificial, every incidental character from the baby to the coffin as well as the two roistering rouses themselves are delightful sham, ludicrous, lovable, high pitched artistry.

Ronelda heads her findings with a notation that their history had been checked by her in numerous books of Puppetry for Ruby Short McKim.

"Mr. Punch, that happy little rascal of Puppet stage fame, is one of the oldest characters in theatre"

land still existing today. His original is claimed by many lands. It is often thought to have come from Italy, where the Puppet shows were first performed. (Puppet is the term used for a doll which moves when pulled by strings or worked by the hands, as done with Punch and Judy.) As far back as the year 1669, Mr. Pepy's famous diary mentions Punch. Shakespeare's 'Taming of the Shrew' is said to have been adapted from the early Punch and Judy shows.

In London in St. Martin's Lane, there actually was a Punch's Theatre, erected in 1710 and bills used to announce the performance as being played by artificial actors. Mr. Punch was such a popular fellow that he even appeared in a Miracle Play about Noah's Ark. There was a song and dance by Mr. Punch in it in 1709 when Mr. Powell, one of the most famous puppet showmen of his day, introduced Mr. Punch to the people of Bath. Mr. Punch became so popular in Convent Gardens, the Sexton of St. Paul's Church there complained that the people who used to come to church stayed outside to watch Punch's antics as shown by Mr. Powell. He complained that Mr. Powell had a very full congregation, but the church was empty.

Some authorities say that Punch began life as an invention of a sixteenth century peasant named Puccio d'Aniello, who lived at Acerra, near Naples. The story is interesting. It appears that a company of strolling players famed for their comedy stopped to entertain a band of peasants at work in the fields. (Puccini was a little, thick-set man with a red face and

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and Punch came out the hero in the end. A Punch and Judy show was usually a one-man affair, seldom using more than two puppets in action at the same time. The numerous characters used in the shows sometimes numbered up to twenty or more, such as, Judy and the baby, devil, dog, hangman, crocodile, policeman, skeleton, coffin, doctor, clown and the ghost. The play always proceeded roughly and hastily with the help of the actors only. It is never stifled by accessories, scenery, properties, incidental music, limelight effects, dances, alarms and excursions which would merely retard the action.

"The Play's the Thing" is certainly true of Punch and Judy. One is never critical of the puppets—"not my idea of Judy"—or "Punch over-acted in that scene with the hangman" and such remarks would not be possible.

No one seems to know just when Punch first appeared in America. The Virginia Gazette printed an article about him in 1738. He appeared in Philadelphia in 1742 and traveled in the New England States as a String Puppet all during the 18th century. The New York American of 1828 had an article about Punch and his first appearance there at the Park Theatre in a tragic comedy.

Mr. Punch was a very mischievous fellow, but everyone loved him. He even performed before Kings and Queens and most shows contained some character representing him. It was not an uncommon sight, going back to the eighteenth century, to see a puppet showman sitting by the roadside repainting the funny faces of his puppets or mending their little coats. It was

only one eye, one of the peasants who the traveling company came to entertain.) When the players left, he started to entertain the peasants in a squeaky little voice and was such a hit that he started to travel around and played Punch for forty years. On his back he carried a wooden box containing his puppets. In his hand he carried a trumpet, at the call of which hundreds of eager people flocked around him to see his merry show.

Punchinello or Punch is also believed to have grown out of the personality of the Roman clown, Maccus, of whom a portrait bronze was unearthed many years ago which strongly resembled Punch, hooked nose, nut cracked chin and all.

A shrill, squeaky voice was characteristic in all lands and tongues in his performances. His weapons were sticks or a club with which to waylay the devil, always a favorite character (a very horrible creature with horns and a long red tail). The play varied according to the showman. Sometimes Punch, after killing everyone, would be killed by the devil, but usually Punch was so popular that the devil got a terrible whacking

a very hard life, but they brought pleasure to hundreds of grownups and children alike. Sometimes there were two showmen, one of them to perform the show and the other to bang on a big drum and to collect the money in his battered old hat. 'LONG LIVE PUNCH,' may he and his merry antics go on and on!"

Ronelda says the late Mr. Paul McPharlin is to be credited with all research on "The Puppet Theatre in America," which is a history covering from 1524 to now.

## **AVAILABLE**

There was a hope, harbored in our hearts for some months now, that somehow some authentic old Punch and Judy puppets would turn up in time to offer with this story. They did! Yes, at the Miami Antique Show, there was a precious set of these rough-and-tumble hand puppets, old, used ones, carved in the Black Forest, perhaps three quarters of a century ago.

Quite large, but perfectly fitting one's hand, Mr. Punch would tower about 16 inches from his cavorting toes to the tip of his prancing peaked cap. What a leer this rowdy character has, oil painted on that head, which, including his cap, is near 6 inches high. Wine velvet suit, gold trimmed with great stuffed pouches, round in front and humped in back, in classic Punchinello style.

Judy is as hook nosed and huge mouthed as her naughty spouse, but also doused with the same dose of irresistible charm that has made these puppets popular for generations! Good carving is her frilled bonnet, instead of cloth,

wooden hands and legs intact and perfect as they are on all of the four adults. Her skirt and coat are of some quaint old cloth; she's only slightly shorter than fat Punch.

"Death"—how can this personage be so gloulish and yet so comical? Splendidly carved skull, painted a pasty cream color, you can fairly hear the tapping of his toes and finger tips as some experienced puppeteer would slip this threatening character onto the little stage. His dress?—a sort of shift and skirt with lace edged shirt tail!

And then the Devil—ah, what can one say to make this gay dog fearsome? We fear there is more of enchantment than malice in his grin. Mahogany complexioned; there are horns above huge ears, the Devil's ears that took such glee in hearing all the raucous quarreling of Punch and Judy. His Evil Eminence is dressed in indigo with red and yellow trim—no dull, defeatist coloring for him, but if there ever was a tail, he must have lost it in some brawling bout.

The fifth character is "The Baby," but he is just an armless-legless knob of thing with a big round mouth into which a parental fist could be jammed; painted black as a Hottentot—I do not know why, but anyway this unlovely infant had remained with the others.

The set cannot be broken. Who would willingly accept Death and the Devil without notorious Punch and Judy? All are in excellent condition, workable, lovable, a group not often replaceable. No A883. \$55.00.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### CLIPPINGS

"Please send the Moros to me for my March Doll of the Month selection, and keep me in mind for a Greek selection. I will gladly make over my last year's hat for Easter. This idea of collecting dolls is spreading over me like measles."—Mrs. M. T. Ensign, Ohio.

"I think it was the Trolls who were most interesting and unusual in my last box. The little maid who cleans our quarters frequently asks 'any new dolls?' and she did get a laugh from those funny, long nosed Trolis."

—Louise Stahl, Maryland.

"I teach Art in high school and my dolls are favorite subjects for my students to draw and paint. I also use my foreign dolls frequently for missionary society programs."—Irene R. Norris, W.Va.

"The Zulu warrior and Portuguese East African gourd doll are very interesting and will certainly find a place in my collection. They will lend atmosphere as well as information to our African mission study this fall."

—Mrs. R. M. Veh, Penna.

"I'm so pleased with my darling little Mark Twain."

—Florence Hamilton, N. J.

"John Smith is so beautifully dressed and I'm so proud of him. It surprises me to find that many men who visit our home find my dolls so interesting."

—Mrs. C. R. Yount, Calif.

"You 'sort of scinged' because I applied 'pretty' to the Sioux dolls, but a pretty object is 'one that is pleasing to the eye, especially one without grandeur.' I maintain the Sioux pair fits that description, even though there is more grandeur to them than I had expected."

—Mrs. Wm. T. Roth, Calif.

"Received my doll and it is very pretty. I appreciate the idea of the little history with it."

—Verna Elias, Conn.

"Thanks for rushing the stands for my Pennsylvania Week Exhibit. Incidentally, I won the award for the most appropriate display of Pennsylvania Crafts."

—Edna F. Ryan, Pennsylvania.

"When I had to dispose of my dolls, the big case was filled in with books, but in fancy, I still see my dolls there. It was the memories and experiences woven around them that made the parting hard, and so I keep promising myself that someday I'll surely start buying again."

—Lucile Hodges, Michigan.

"My granddaughter had spent a day in bed, but when the doll stands arrived, you never saw anyone revive more quickly! She insisted on getting up, helping to fix the dolls and straighten up her cabinet, and that thrill was better than any medicine."

—Mrs. Letitia Michelsen, New York

"I now have over six hundred dolls. They have been exhibited many times and to date have earned over \$2600. for charity."

—Sallie Perkins, N. Y.

# Lovely to Look At

# A Treasure to Own

Once up a time, out at the Humpty Dumpty Doll Hospital, where modern parians and lusters and other fine dolls are made, they decided to heed your many requests for a petite number of the same high standards used in their larger dolls. This was during the regime of H. D. D. H., founder Emma Clear, who responded with exquisite 10", yes, only 10 inch, "Mary With Bows." Some folk call any antique with vertical curls "Mary Todd" and surely this dainty little beauty with her layers of crisply modeled wee curls would rate as a most beautiful version. There was a catch, though; "Miss Bows" was not a profitable venture due to the intricate processes of creating her in reduced scale; costs ran as high as for Mary's larger sisters. Quite a stock of the delicate heads accumulated, but there never seemed time to make up special limbs to complete the little ladies.

Heads, by the way, are 2 3/4" from top to shoulder base. They come in (1) parian white, (2) the same smooth finish in a pale pink bisque (lovely!), and in (3) china, glazed. They are dated and signed "Clear" on the back of their deep, shapely shoulders. Most all are blondes, with brown eyes, and either pink or blue bows at the temples. Holes through the shoulders accommodate tapes which fasten the pretty heads onto adult proportioned bodies, slender waisted bodies that will sit perfectly. Arms are gracefully shaped with cupped hands to match each head; legs wear Edwardian boots with patrician slim toes and shaped heels. Ten-inch aristocrat of replicas is undressed. Costuming would be extra, about \$10.00.

183B French Bisque      \$15.00

183C China	\$12.50
183P Parian	\$15.00



SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

**KIMPORT DOLLS,** Independence, Mo.